

Evaluation title	Evaluation of Tsogolo la Thanzi - Healthy Future Home-Grown School Feeding Project in Malawi from 2020-2023	
Evaluation category and type	Decentralized - Activity	
Post Hoc Quality Assessment (PHQA) - overall rating	Satisfactory: 73%	
<p>The evaluation of the Tsogolo la Thanzi - Healthy Future Home-Grown School Feeding Project in Malawi from 2020-2023 constitutes a satisfactory report that decision makers can use with confidence. The evaluation uses a rigorous mixed-methods, quasi-experimental design, incorporating a variety of qualitative and quantitative data sources from a range of relevant stakeholders, beneficiaries, and secondary sources. Data collection and analysis provided high-quality and reliable data, with sources clearly identified and visual tools effectively used. Overall, the evaluation findings are evidence-based and respond well to the evaluation questions. Care was taken to include sex-disaggregated data, with explanations provided where this was not possible. The report could have been further strengthened by streamlining the evaluation matrix to provide concise and clear evaluation indicators and to avoid duplications in reporting across sub-questions. It could have also provided more information on the approach to assessing gender equality and disability-inclusion issues as well as how safeguards and gender-sensitive approaches were implemented. The report could have additionally discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention in a more balanced way, particularly in areas of gender equality and transformative impact. It would have also been beneficial for some conclusions to capture more strategic and forward-looking implications of project challenges and providing more feasible and actionable recommendations. Finally, the main report, annexes, and executive summary are longer than the recommended word limits, which negatively affects the readability and usability.</p>		
CRITERION 1: REPORT SUMMARY	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The executive summary provides a clear overview of the evaluation, including key features of the evaluation approach, and project context. Evaluation findings, lessons, and a summary of the conclusions and recommendations are provided. However, the summary could have also been strengthened by a more balanced overview of the evaluation findings and conclusions with greater alignment with, and support of, the presented recommendations.</p>		
CRITERION 2: CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION SUBJECT	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
<p>The report provides a clear and relevant overview of the evaluation context and subject. This section could have been strengthened by including information from Malawi's 2022 National Voluntary Report against SDGs, more details on the project budget such as planned and actual expenditures, and a discussion of the project's intervention logic and causal assumptions. It could also have benefited from more framing of the gender dimension in the context and project descriptions.</p>		
CRITERION 3: EVALUATION RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE	Rating	Highly Satisfactory
<p>The report provides a clear and complete overview of the evaluation rationale, objectives, and scope. No weaknesses were noted in relation to the information presented in the report.</p>		
CRITERION 4: METHODOLOGY	Rating	Satisfactory
<p>The report clearly describes the evaluation's rigorous mixed methods, quasi-experimental design, which used a variety of qualitative and quantitative data primary and secondary data sources. A clear description of the evaluation sampling approach is provided, along with a discussion of data limitations and mitigation strategies. The report includes a specific question on gender equity and disability inclusion, and it mainstreams gender and disability-inclusion dimensions in other criteria. Furthermore, the methodology takes into consideration of ethical standards and safeguard measures. The methodological design could have been further strengthened by streamlining the evaluation matrix to provide concise and clear evaluation indicators and to avoid duplications across sub-questions. Additionally, this section could have been</p>		

strengthened by providing more information on the approach to assessing gender equity and disability-inclusion issues as well as how specifically safeguards and gender-sensitive approaches were implemented.

CRITERION 5: FINDINGS	Rating	Satisfactory
------------------------------	---------------	--------------

Overall, the evaluation findings are evidence-based and respond to the evaluation questions and sub-questions. There is a high level of data reliability based on the rigorous methodology, and sources are clearly identified and triangulated. The effective integration of quotes throughout the findings section verifies that different voices are reflected. Care was taken to include sex-disaggregated data, with explanations provided where this was not possible. However, the report would have been further strengthened by providing a more balanced presentation of strengths and weaknesses in the findings, particularly in areas of gender equality. The findings should have used more concise and specific wording to avoid hyperbolic statements. Finally, the inclusion of references to project targets for key activities; and iv) identification of potential unanticipated negative effects.

CRITERION 6: CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS	Rating	Satisfactory
---	---------------	--------------

Overall, the conclusions present a balanced picture of the project's strengths and weaknesses and logically flow from the evaluation findings. The conclusions could have been strengthened by capturing strategic and forward-looking implications of project challenges more effectively and by avoiding phrasing some conclusions as recommendations.

CRITERION 7: RECOMMENDATIONS	Rating	Partly Satisfactory
-------------------------------------	---------------	---------------------

The evaluation provides seven recommendations which logically derive from the findings. The type, priority, responsible actor, and timeframes are included for each of them and they provide information and links to gender and disability-inclusion issues. The report could have benefited from grouping recommendations which are directly related to school feeding programmes (as per the evaluation purpose and objectives) and those that address broader educational sector reforms and go beyond the scope. Recommendations that address broader education sector reforms and infrastructure could have benefited from clearer linkages to findings and conclusions as well as more clarity on their feasibility and actionability.

CRITERION 8: ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY	Rating	Satisfactory
---	---------------	--------------

The report follows the WFP template for evaluation reports and includes all the required annexes. It makes good use of visual aids and provides clear sources for all data and quotes. It could have benefited from: i) a careful editing to correct grammatical errors and remove duplications; ii) more concise summaries and synthesizing of information to reduce its length; iii) a clear identification of good practices and success factors; and iv) shortened annexes.

Integration of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) considerations in the evaluation report based on the UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Evaluation Performance Indicator (EPI) scorecard		
---	--	--

UN-SWAP EPI – individual evaluation score	Meets requirements: 7 points	
--	------------------------------	--

GEWE is effectively mainstreamed in the evaluation framework, including a standalone criterion on gender equality. An assessment of the availability of information on gender equality indicators and results collected during the implementation period is included. The evaluation included considerations on how to effectively integrate GEWE, reflected in the mixed methods approach and sampling frame, drawing upon a variety of data sources and reaching diverse stakeholder and beneficiary groups. The report could have been strengthened by including more information on how gender-sensitive approaches and ethical safeguards were applied and by strengthening the identification and analysis of possible unintended effects of the intervention on gender equality, along with a more comprehensive inclusion in the recommendations of GEWE considerations.

Post Hoc Quality Assessment – Rating scale and definitions at overall report and criteria levels	
Highly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the credible and useful evaluation findings provided and can use the evaluation with a high degree of confidence for decision-making. The report is considered an excellent example.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: The criterion is addressed without any gaps or limitations.</i>
Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the quality and credible evaluation findings provided and can use it with confidence for decision-making.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are no significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Partly Satisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can rely on the evaluation findings provided and may use it for decision-making noting that there are some gaps/shortcomings in the information provided.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are some significant gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion.</i>
Unsatisfactory	<i>Definition at overall report level: Evaluation users can use some of the learning from the evaluation, noting that there are significant gaps/ shortcomings in the evaluation findings provided. The report may still contribute to decision making but should be used with caution.</i>
	<i>Definition at criterion level: There are critical gaps or limitations in addressing the criterion. Most of the required parameters are not met.</i>